

FEBRUARY 1997
VOLUME 13 NO.2

SACWN

SACRAMENTO AREA CAREER
WOMEN'S NETWORK INC.



SUZANNE WESTENHOEFER

COMEDY IN CONCERT

SACWN will present comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer in concert on Friday, February 14, 1997, 8 p.m. at the Crest Theater. Westenhoefer is one of the most recognized lesbian comedians around today.

Her television appearances include HBO's Comic Relief VII, Caroline's Comedy Hour and Comedy Central. Suzanne is the first lesbian ever to have her own HBO Special which was nominated for the highest honor in cable programming, the ACE Award. She has appeared in clubs and theaters across the nation and is a regular on the Olivia Cruises. Suzanne's first comedy recording has just been

released and will be on sale at the concert.
For more information see page 4. A ticket
order form is enclosed on page 10.

Date: Friday, February 14, 1997
Place: Crest Theater
1013 K Street, Sacramento
Time: 8 p.m.
Tickets: \$ 15 In Advance
\$ 20 At the Door
General Admission Seating
See ticket order form on inside back cover.
An event for the entire community.

From the Steering Committee

It's a busy time at the SACWN office. In the last half of January we have sold more than 300 tickets to the upcoming Suzanne Westenhoefer concert. We only have 600 more to go! (Actually, while the theater does seat 900 our break even point, that is when all of the costs have been covered, is between 500 and 600 tickets depending on the mix of the ticket prices.)

It's exciting. This is definitely the biggest project in SACWN's history and it looks like it will be a success. It's risky bringing a performer of Suzanne's caliber to town. There are so many wonderful lesbian performers who appear in the Bay Area but never make it up 80 to Sacramento. With your support, we will be able to take more risks and bring them to our town.

Be sure to get your tickets to the show. Suzanne is an incredible comedian who will have you laughing at yourself and our community. You can be a SACWN Sweetheart for \$50 which will get you theater seats down front, a copy of her CD and an invitation to a reception for Suzanne after the show.

The Sweetheart reception will be held at the new restaurant at 1201 K Street, just a block and a half from the Crest Theater. While owned by the management of the building, the restaurant is gay managed and very lesbian friendly. In planning the reception, several locations were visited, but no one was more sensitive, cooperative and open to working within our budget than the manager of 1201 K. It's a beautiful restaurant, on the high end of the price range, very definitely a place to go for that special celebration. And when you visit, thank Kevin, the general manager, for his support of SACWN.

There is another big change at the SACWN office this month. As you know, SACWN is managed by an association management company called Outsourcing Management Group (OMG) which is owned by a long time SACWN member Sandy Virago. OMG was a new company when the first contract with SACWN was signed in November of 1992. Over the years, the company has grown, taken on more clients, and finally, after working with part-time staff support this past year, has hired their first full-time staff member (not counting of course, the owner's partner, Carol).

The best part is, the new administrative assistant at OMG (and SACWN) is SACWN member, Candie Leigh White. Candie is a transplant from the Bay Area, moving to the foothills four years ago. She has been a writer with MGW, and a worker at the Snow White Ball. She lives

with her partner Jeanette in Cameron Park (and is looking for a house in Sacramento.) So when you call the SACWN office, be sure to say hi to Candie.

Thanks for your continued support of SACWN. Happy Valentine's Day and be sure to tell everyone in your life how much you love and appreciate them!

SACWN ADVERTISING RATES

Type	Member	Non-Mem
Business Card 3 1/4 x 1 3/4	\$25	\$37
Two-column ad 4 1/2 x 2 3/4	\$40	\$60
Quarter page 3 1/2 x 4 1/2	\$50	\$75
Half page 7 1/8 x 4 1/2 or 3 1/2 x 9 1/2	\$90	\$135
Full page 7 1/2 x 9 1/2	\$160	\$240
Classified ads (per word)	.40	.60
Discounts (prepaid)	1 year 1/2 year	20% 10%

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SACWN STEERING COMMITTEE

Rosemary Metrailler, Corporate Coordinator

(916) 447-7255

Jane Irwin, Finance Coordinator

(916) 424-3153

Sandra Virago

Executive Director

SACWN, Inc.

3031 F Street, Suite 201

Sacramento, CA 95816

(916) 451-8034

FAX: (916) 446-7189

SACWN, Inc. newsletter is published monthly, ten times a year. No portion of this newsletter may be reproduced without written permission from **SACWN, Inc.** Letters to the Editor, articles and community announcements are welcome. Materials submitted may be edited and shortened based on available space. Deadline for submission of material is the third Friday of the month before publication. For more information, contact Sandy Virago at 451-8034.

Special Interest Groups - February 1997

Special Interest Groups, fondly called SIGs, provide a way for our subscribers to meet in a more personal setting and get to know each other while exploring a common interest. Have an idea for a SIG? Call Sandy at 451-8034 to discuss starting a new SIG.

SINGLE CONNECTION

On **February 8th** join us for a movie night.. Call **Ann at 927-6038** for information.

Join us before the Suzanne Westenhoefer show for dinner. Call **Ann at 927-6038** for reservations.

On **February 22**, we'll have a pot luck and game night.

It's to the Sacramento Community Center on **March 5** to see Ladysmith Black Mombas. Call for details by February 15 .

And don't forget our Sunday Brunch on **March 2**, 10:00 am. **Ann at 927-6038** is the contact person for all the happenings this month!

FOUR WHEELERS

Have a four wheel drive? Want to travel?. Call **Cinder at 676-0641** or **Julie at 361-9422**.

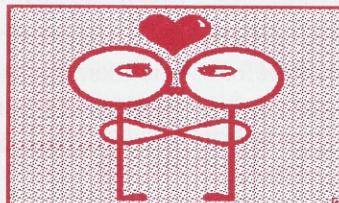
WILDLIFE, BIRD WATCHING AND PHOTOGRAPHY HIKES

Call **Linda at 921-9052** to find out about the upcoming activities.



TOP 10

Join us for dinner on February 23 at 5:00 p.m. at the Wah-Shine Restaurant, 7433 A Greenback, at San Juan. Call your reservation by February 20 to Kathy or Marge at 923-0912. We are still looking for a facilitator to keep us organized. Any volunteers?



RAINBOW CAMPERS

Here's the schedule for the 1997 summer of camping fun.

Apr 11-13 - Coloma; Joyce & Barbara 929-3074

May 16 & 17 - Sandy Beach Delta Park; Kathleen 684-3741

June 20 & 21 - Casini Ranch; Casey & C.J. 366-7362

July 4-6 - Mt. Shasta, Scott Flats; Vicki 564-6907

August TBA - Wrights Beach; Carolyn & Nancy 381-8175

Sept 20-21 - Coloma; Linda & Denise 641-8565

All campers are welcome with tents, trucks, RVs, mattresses, etc.

MOMS AND KIDS

The Mom's Group meets for a potluck on the third Saturday of the month. We also get together for many other fun family activities during the month. And for that needed break from the kids, we feature a "Mom's Night Out" activity. Call **Kim**, the group facilitator at 364-8653 for information. For a newsletter and monthly activity calendar, call **Donna or Christina at 484-5696**.

1/2 FAST HIKING GROUP

Enjoy walking and hiking in scenic and interesting areas and observing the many wonders of our natural environment. Our first hiking trip will be in March to the Sacramento River Trail in Redding. For details about the group or to share rides call Ann at 443-3638 or Sue at 927-8320.



THE BOOK GROUP

The February meeting of SACWN's book group will be at the SACWN office, 3031 F Street, Suite 201, Sacramento. For information about the date and time, please contact **Joy Fisher at 452-5513**. February's book will be Talk Before Sleep by Elizabeth Berg.

SACWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1997

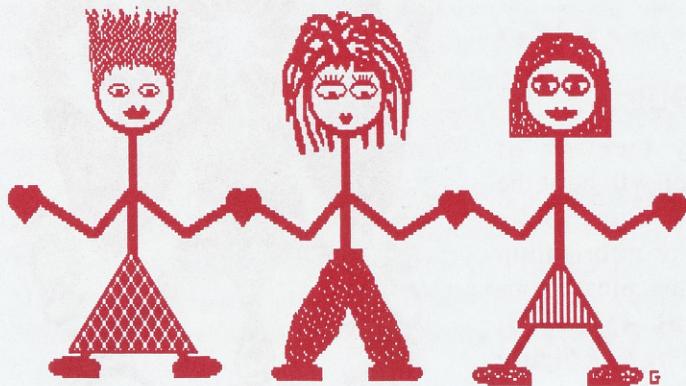
IN CONCERT

SUZANNE WESTENHOEFER

The following article appeared in the Los Angeles Weekly when Suzanne was the Comedy Pick of the Week.

Somewhere along the way, Suzanne Westenhoefer earned the dubious honor of being known as the lesbian comedian most popular with straights. She attributes this to being on the breaking wave of a trend: "Gay people are the Evian water of the '90's." But perhaps Westenhoefer's across the board popularity is partially due to her ease in answering the obnoxious questions, such as "How'd you become a homosexual?" "First there's the talent competition, then the interview - swimming suit and evening gown pretty much get rid of the undesirables." Since her first show, Nothing in My Closet But My Clothes, Suzanne has been straightforward, so to speak, about her sexual orientation, and still booked as a headliner in the big comedy chains, perhaps because her act covers the universality of humanness. In her HBO special, she goes in search of a partner who's handy around the house. "There's none of this 'What's your sign? stuff for me. It's 'can you wire a lamp, can you weed?'"

Suzanne has been amused to be billed as the Expert Lesbian on the Rikki Lake Show, but one of the perks of comedy recognition has been to meet her heroes, such as Martina Navratilova, who Suzanne had been jokingly slavering over in her act. "Don't you just love her? I want to lick that vein that sticks out on her arm." Martina must have had that joke passed on to her, when they finally did meet, Marina presented Suzanne with the famous arm. "But I didn't lick it; I passed out. And when I woke up, Cindy Crawford was shaving me."



BE A SACWN SWEETHEART SPONSOR

Bringing a performer of the caliber of Suzanne to SACWN is an enormous undertaking and financial risk. To assist in keeping the concert ticket price as low as possible, SACWN is seeking Sweetheart Sponsorships. For \$50, our Sweethearts will receive a ticket to the concert, with a guaranteed "up front, first three rows" seat, Suzanne's newly-released CD and admission to a private post-show party to schmooze with the star. The party will be held at 1201 K Street, less than 2 blocks from the theater.

See the order form on page 10 for the purchase of tickets. Please note that this concert will be open to the entire community.



Building Lasting Relationships

Couple's group emphasizing solutions and growth in establishing committed long-term relationships. Meets 2xs per month. Facilitator: Melinda Facelli MFCC #MFC30351 - 783-0563

SUCCESSFUL SACWNITE FAMILY

We celebrate a successful SACWNite family this month, the family of Anita Williams, Shireen Miles and Charlotte Susan Williams.

Anita was born and raised in southern California. Her parents owned a motorcycle parts company and she learned to ride a motorcycle before she rode a two wheel bicycle. In addition to motorcycles, she also loves the beach and spent many youthful hours around the ocean.

After two years in college, she joined the Navy. "I was studying journalism and became bored with college. I met a Navy recruiter who promised that I could be a journalist right away in the Navy. I knew I'd be close to the ocean and so I spent the next four years in active duty. Since 1982, I've been in the reserves, presently serving with a cargo handling group that deploys all over the world. I never did become a journalist, but rather spent the time working with small boats."

From active duty, Anita completed her college degree in urban and regional planning at the University of Maryland and now works in private real estate development. Currently with Tate and Associates, she writes environmental impact reports, processes entitlements and deals with resolving transportation planning issues.

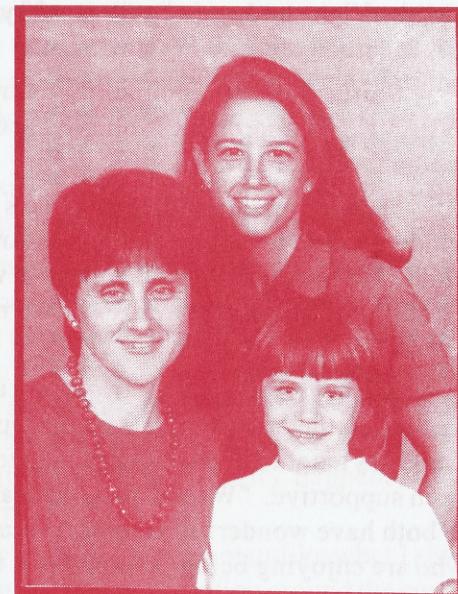
Shireen Miles was born and raised in Susanville, California. She is the great granddaughter of the founder of Susanville. Shireen's great grandmother is the Susan for whom the town is named. Shireen spent a year at the Midwest college of McCalister before returning to finish at UC Davis. Her first career was as a school teacher. She has

taught several elementary grades in a variety of school settings. With an intense interest in politics, Shireen has worked in public relations and marketing and in the early 80's served as the president of the local chapter of NOW. She then served for four years as the California NOW state coordinator. She was living in Los Angeles when she met Anita.

"Shireen was the director of the Glendale YWCA and I was a volunteer there", Anita explains. "I remodeled the bathroom, and started a thrift shop that provided employment opportunities for women. We became friends and then in 1993, lovers."

Shireen became certified as a foster mother before meeting Anita. It was at that time that she first met Charlotte, but Charlotte's foster placement at the time appeared to be long term. About a year after Shireen and Anita were living together, they received a phone call asking if they were interested in providing a home for Charlotte. After a couple trips back and forth to San Francisco to visit Charlotte, they agreed. The first step in the process was to get Anita licensed as a foster parent so both she and Shireen could have legal responsibility for Charlotte. It took several months of exhaustive questions about their background, families and the "roles" in their relationship. Finally, 2 days before the last opportunity for Charlotte to start first grade, she arrived.

"Our goal all along was to adopt Charlotte so another process began. The termination of the parental rights took a year. Then Charlotte's case was moved from a "foster" caseworker to an "adop-



tion" caseworker. Charlotte has an attorney appointed by the court to protect her best interest. Anita and Shireen also hired an attorney to represent the family's interest. A court date was assigned on November 6, 1996. San Francisco County could only present one petitioner as Charlotte's parent, but Anita and Shireen's attorney presented them as a couple in their petition. The judge ruled in favor of the joint petition and Charlotte became their daughter.

A new birth certificate was issued for Charlotte and she chose her name. She took Susan as her middle name after Shireen's great grandmother, and Williams as her last name.

Charlotte is a third grader at David Lubin Elementary School. She is an excellent soccer player and won an award last year for scoring the most goals. She was a member of the top team in the East Sacramento Soccer club for under 10 year olds. The rest of their family includes Tuxedo, a ten year

SUCCESSFUL SACWNITES, CONTINUED

old black lab and Jazz, a "going on 2" years old black and white cat.

Shireen is the community outreach manager at WEAVE. She coordinates volunteer activities and handles media for the organization.

"Having children changes one's perspective. We suddenly didn't want to stay in Los Angeles to raise our child. We looked at several areas, but when the job came through for Shireen at WEAVE, we returned to Sacramento."

Shireen, Anita and Charlotte are active members of Trinity Cathedral Church, an episcopal denomination. Anita has taught Sunday School and the congregation has been supportive. "We are also fortunate and very lucky to both have wonderfully supportive and loving parents who are enjoying being grandparents to Charlotte.

"Success for a family is an ongoing process. It doesn't start on a specific day and it won't end. Daily we build on our relationships. We keep loving each other more and more, no matter what comes along and we stay committed to our family and each other."

THE SNOW WHITE BALL PRODUCTION TEAM

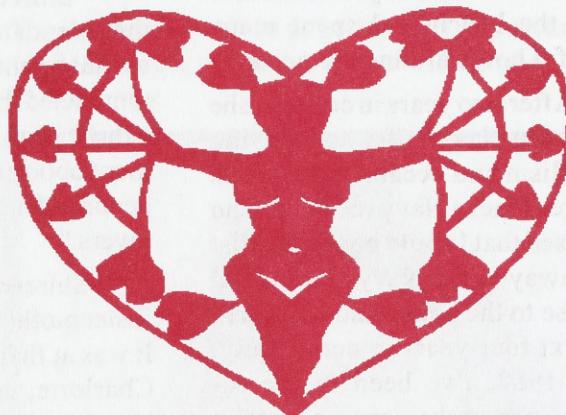
The women who brought you the Snow White Ball posed for this lovely picture, take by Christina and Donna of Eastlake Photography. The SWB team included, left to right, Carol, Yvonne, Sandy, Karen, with Lucja on her knee, Jeanette and Candie. Another workers, not available for the picture, were Laurie, Lynn and Gail. Our sincere appreciation to this wonderful group of hard working SACWNites.



SACWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1997 SACWN SALON POETRY

A local lesbian "published" poet will lead the discussion and share her writings. Come prepared to read your work. There is a bit of poet in all of us. This Salon is for those who write, those who want to write, and those who are fascinated that there are women who write - poetry.



FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1997 SACWN SALON HAWAIIAN WEDDING PROJECT

Sacwnites Joy Fisher and Joyce Austin will tell us about the project, it's herstory, goals, progress to date and expectations for the future.

IN THE COMMUNITY

February 6 - LGS .. Lesbian Support Group in Auburn at the Dewitt Center from 7-9. For information, call 632-7080.

January 3-4 Gay and Lesbian Sierrans Women's Ski Weekend. Call Connie at 972-9230.

February 8 - Gay and Lesbian Sierrans - Sandhill Crane watching. Call Dell 455-4790.

February 22 - Gay and Lesbian Sierrans - Cross Country skiing. For info call Suzanne at 668-0691

March 1, Sacramento Women's Chorus, 10th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Concert. St Ignatius Parish Center at 3235 Arden Way, between Fulton & Watt. Advance tickets \$10 available at the Gifted Gardener until Feb 24, \$15 at the door if seating is available. Or call 481-3224.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FROM SACWN! WILL YOU BE OUR SWEETHEART?

SACWN SAYS....

It's easy to understand how they feel, as I hurry to get this newsletter to the printer in the next hour so I can hopefully get it in the mail to you by the last day of the month. There's a lot of work to running an organization. That's why more than 4 years ago, SACWN hired an administrative management company to take over the tasks that no volunteer would come forward to do.

A recent newsletter from our sister organization to the east, *If The Shoe Fits*, has announced that the organization may fold by mid year. They note that the planning, organizing and putting on of events has been handled repeatedly by the same core of people, who are tired. And now, without fresh volunteers, they have decided to fold. Perhaps before the final activity happens, new energy will be found.

But the experience of *Shoe* is not unlike what I read in newsletters from lesbian organization around the country. They are pleading and dying for want of workers to help share the responsibility.

My friends and I have talked about the future without these organizations. Some will be able to survive though as SACWN has done by constantly reviewing, shifting, downsizing, and evaluating. For thirteen years now SACWN has provided an entry point for many women into the lesbian community. It has provided a safe and classy environment for women to meet women.

Is there a way to suggest to lesbians that a donation of \$36 a year to maintain a lesbian resource in the community should be a top priority of their personal budget? While a lot of money to some women, for others, \$36 is the cost of dinner out.

SACWN's membership is down. We are hoping the energy around Suzanne Westenhoefer's performance will generate new interest in membership. But community support is absolutely necessary to maintain the organization.

Would we miss SACWN if it were gone? Will the foothill women miss *Shoe*? We must support our organizations or we will lose them. While SACWN is not on the verge of closing, the shock of losing a sister organization that seemed to be doing so well, makes one stop and think.

It's our choice, and a choice we must make now. Someday later may be too late. We salute the dedicated women who for 8 years have been the strength of *If The Shoe Fits*. We wish them a peaceful rest.

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THE FORMS

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CATEGORIES

	RATES
Regular Subscriber	\$36/year
Two-in-One Household	\$60/year
Limited Income Subscriber*	\$24/year
(Student/Senior/Disabled)	
Sustaining Subscriber**	\$48/year

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Career Interests

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This form is NOT a permanent record. Please note: Names on checks are listed in our financial records and may be audited. You may elect to pay cash for your subscription and/or admission to our events. For your protection, do not send cash through the mail. If subscribing by cash, please make your payment at the next meeting you attend. A \$10 fee will be charged on returned checks.

WAIVER - I AM AWARE THAT CERTAIN RISKS OR INJURIES COULD OCCUR ARISING FROM MY PARTICIPATION IN SACWN, INC. EVENTS AND/OR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS. IN CONSIDERATION OF THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH EVENTS, SOME OF WHICH MAY INVOLVE STRENuous ACTIVITY (I.E. HIKING, GOLFING, SKIING, CYCLING, ETC.), I HEREBY ASSUME ALL RISKS AND WILL HOLD SACWN, INC. AND ITS MEMBERS HARMLESS FROM ALL LIABILITY WHICH MAY ARISE IN CONNECTION WITH THESE ACTIVITIES.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

***LIMITED INCOME** - We consider a person living on a limited income to be anyone who is having a difficult time paying for basic necessities - food, utilities and rent - and who rarely considers entertainment as part of her budget.

* SENIORS -Age 65+ on Limited Income; STUDENTS - Students 21+ on Limited Income; DISABLED - Disabled Citizens on Limited Income.

****SUSTAINING** - Contributing a little extra to help supplement others (Seniors, Students, Disabled) on limited income.

TICKET ORDER FORM

Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer

Friday, February 14, 1997

Crest Theater

1013 K Street, Sacramento

8 p.m.

General admission seating, doors open at 7 p.m.

**FOR MAIL ORDER,
SEND CHECK WITH SELF ADDRESSED
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NAME: _____

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Sponsorship @ \$50** _____

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For \$50, you'll receive a concert ticket, "down front seats", Suzanne's newly-released CD, and a ticket to the private post show party with

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Your credit card bill will indicate a purchase from
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This event is open to the entire community.

No refunds on purchased tickets.



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